

CLAIMS

1. A method for improving the efficiency of manufacturing a product, comprising the steps of:

receiving from a manufacturer a desire to manufacture a number of said products;  
determining an amount of materials required to produce said number of products;  
determining a process for manufacturing said number of products;  
calculating a cost to manufacture said number of products based on said amount of materials and said process;

providing to said manufacturer said process and said cost to manufacture said number of products.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

receiving from said manufacturer a payment proportional to said cost to manufacture said number of products.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

providing said amount of materials to said manufacturer.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said process requires a tool, said method further comprising the step of:

providing to said manufacturer said tool.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said process for manufacturing said number of products is an optimum process.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said materials is provided by a material provider and said process for manufacturing said number of products is the intellectual property of said materials provider.

5. A system for improving the efficiency of manufacturing a product, comprising:  
a product database storing a plurality of products, said product database including a material list and a process description for manufacturing each of said plurality of products;  
a pricing engine, said pricing engine receiving a manufacturer's desire to manufacture a number of said products, said pricing engine accessing said product database for determining an amount of materials, a process and a cost for manufacturing said number of products.

6. The system of claim 5, further comprising a manufacturer interface module, said manufacturer interface module providing to said manufacturer said amount of materials and said process for manufacturing said number of products.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein said manufacturer interface module receives from said manufacturer a payment proportional to said cost to manufacture said number of products.

8. The system of claim 7, further comprising a delivery manager, said delivery manager causing said amount of materials to be delivered to said manufacturer.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein said delivery manager causes a tool required to perform said process to be delivered to said manufacturer.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein said process for manufacturing said number of products is an optimum process.

*13.* The method of claim *6*, wherein said materials is provided by a material provider and said process for manufacturing said number of products is the intellectual property of said materials provider.